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FOR EDWARD B. PERSONS ASSOCIATE UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 8333 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS

ABABA GENEVA PARIS USUN 06 DEC

QUOTE

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FROM REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO - BLANCHARD CANDIDACY FOR ILO DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP

REF: STATE 236840

1. BLANCHARD HAS PERFORMED HIS ROLE AS SECRETARY GENERAL
OF FOURTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE WITH QUIET EFFICIENCY.
WITH HELP OF ILO LEGAL ADVISER WOLF, HE GOT CON-
FERENCE UNDERWAY AFTER SLOW START AND MANAGED TO OVERCOME
MINOR PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS OBJECTION TO REGISTRA-
TION OF FRENCH AS REGULAR DELEGATES (FRENCH AGREED TO
SIT WITH OBSERVERS). SUBSEQUENTLY, HE MAINTAINED RELAXED
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POSTURE IN AND AROUND CONFERENCE AND READY AVAILABILITY

FOR ANY CONFEREES SEEKING HIS ASSISTANCE OR ADVISE.

2. BLANCHARD SPOKE BEFORE OAU/OATUU SPECIAL MEETING ON APARTHEID (DELIVERING SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS ORIGINALLY PREPARED FOR JENKS), AND HE ADDRESSED NAIROBI PRESS CLUB ON PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS OF ILO. HE ALSO STAGE-MANAGED AND OPENED SPECIAL CONFERENCE SESSION DEC. 5 ON ILO WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM STUDY OF KENYA. SESSION WAS BEST OF CONFERENCE, LARGELY BECAUSE OF BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE OF KENYAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING, MWAI KIBAKI.

3. TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION OF PERSONAL CONFLICT, BLANCHARD PROVIDED TEVORDJRE WITH PROMINENT POSITION AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONFERENCE AND GAVE HIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS, ONE OF TWO FORMAL COMMITTEES.

4. THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE BLANCHARD REFRAINED FROM ANY ACTIVE POLITIKING FOR HIS CANDIDACY FOR POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ILO. HE DID HAVE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL OBSERVERS, INCLUDING REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE CALDWELL, PAT O'FARRELL OF AALC AND GEORGE FOGGON OF UK. IN THESE HE TALKED MOSTLY ABOUT ILO PROGRAMS IN GENERAL AND NEED TO MAKE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS MORE EFFICIENT. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CONFERENCE WAS PROGRESSING WELL BUT WAS NOT AS PRODUCTIVE AS HE WISHED OWING TO POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING TEVORDJRE'S CANDIDACY AND FOLLOWING ON OAU'S PRESSURE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA RATHER THAN ON CONFERENCE TOPICS.

5. IN CONTRAST TO BLANCHARD'S COOL, RELAXED ATTITUDE, TEVORDJRE HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN CAMPAIGNING AND SEEKING WAYS AND MEANS TO ACCOMMODATE HIMSELF TO VIEWS AND DESIRES OF DELEGATES RE ILO'S FUTURE. HE CIRCULATED MEMORANDUM ON WHAT HE WOULD DO IF ELECTED AND INVITED COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. HIS YOUTHFUL VIGOR AS HE MOVED ABOUT WAS IMPRESSIVE. OAU REPRESENTATIVES RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEATEDLY REMINDED DELEGATES OF UNANIMOUS RESOLUTIONS BY THEIR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCES IN ADDIS ABABA LAST MAY IN SUPPORT OF TEVORDJRE'S CANDIDACY.

6. AFRICAN WORKERS' GROUP SESSION ON DEC. 1 PASSED RESOLUTION, ENGINEERED IN PART BY TEVORDJRE HIMSELF, ENDORING TEVORDJRE AS SOLE AFRICAN CANDIDATE AND

CALLING FOR WORLDWIDE SUPPORT. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS FELT SUCH RESOLUTION WAS UNNECESSARY AT THIS JUNCTURE AND TACTLESS IN VIEW BLANCHARD'S PRESENCE AND HIS CORRECT BEHAVIOR. UNDAUNTED, TEVORDJRE'S SUPPORTERS, DESPITE DISAPPROVAL BY GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS, PROCEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF RESOLUTION TO EVERY DELEGATE AND OBSERVER AT CONFERENCE. THIS ACTION HAS PROBABLY HURT TEVORDJRE'S POSITION.

7. IN SUM, IMPRESSION OF BLANCHARD'S PERFORMANCE IS THAT OF COMPETENT, IF SOMEWHAT COLORLESS, BUREAUCRAT PURSUING HIS PROFESSIONAL JOB. HIS QUIET, RELAXED APPEARANCE OCCASIONED LITTLE COMMENT PRO OR CON. HIS MAIN INFLUENCE ON CONFERENCE WAS TO KEEP IT ON ITS TRACKS DESPITE DIVERSIONARY POLITICKING. TEVORDJRE ON OTHER HANE WAS MORE FLAMBOYANT AND ATTRACTED MORE ATTENTION. IT IS QUESTIONABLE, HOWEVER, HOW GOOD IMPRESSION HE MADE WHERE IT COUNTS, NAMELY WHERE THE VOTES ARE, AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY.
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